THE

E. of Shaftsbury's EXPEDIENT

For Setling the

NATION.

Diſcourſed with His

MAJESTY

in the Houſe of Peers,

At *OXFORD*, *Mar.* 24th. 168$\frac{0}{1}$.

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THE

SALISBURY'S

EXPEDITION,

MASQUE.

THE Earl of Shaftsbury's EXPEDIENT For Setling the NATION. Diſcourſed with His MAJESTY In the Houſe of PEERS at *Oxford*, *Mar.* the 24*th.* 168$\frac{3}{4}$.

THE 24th. of *March*, the great Patriot, and next under God and Dr. *Oates*, the ſupreme Saviour and Defender of the Nation, the Earl of *Shaftsbury* receiv'd, or pretended that he receiv'd a Letter written in

an unknown Hand, containing an Expedient for the ſetling and compoſing the Differences between the *King* and *Parliament*. With this he made a great noiſe, and buſtling about as faſt as his leggs, and man, and ſtick, could carry him. It was ask'd the Duke of *Monmouth*, by my Lord Chamberlain, (that ſuppos'd that his Grace might be privy to this grand Affair) what the great Concern was: His Grace (with ſome ſhew of modeſty and ſelf-denial) made anſwer, that it was ſomewhat concerning himſelf, wherein that Lord was (as in many other things relating to his Grace) much more forward than he deſir'd he ſhould be.

The little Lord very buſy, and deſirous to ſpeak with the *King*, was told by the Earl of *Feverſham*, that he heard he had ſome buſineſs of great Importance to communicate to the *King*, and that therefore if he pleas'd, he would conduct him to His Majeſty. The buſie Earl told him, he was willing to be conducted by ſo honeſt a man as his Lordſhip, drolling and thinking himſelf guilty of a very ſhrewd Irony.

Well,

Well, he is brought to the *King*, and there broach'd. The Letter of Expedients is produc'd; and what do you think was this grand Secret of securing our Peace and Religion, but a Proposal for the setling the Crown on the Duke of *Monmouth*? The *K.* surpriz'd, told the Earl, that he wonder'd that after so many Declarations to the contrary, he should press him upon that Subject, that if either with Conscience, or Justice, or Nature, he could do such a thing, he would have done it before; it being reasonable, that if he had had ever a Child of his own Legitimate, he would much rather have him reign, than his Brother, or any of his Brothers Children: That his Majesty was none of those that grew more timorous with age, but that rather he grew the more resolute the nearer he was to his grave.

At that word the Loyal Earl was mightily concern'd, and cry'd out that it chill'd his blood to hear of such an expression; Telling the *King* how earnest the whole Nation was for His Preservation: that in Him were Compriz'd all their Safeties, Lives, Liberties, and Religion, and their All.

Yes,

Yes, anſwered his Majeſty, and yet, my Lord, I am the only Arbitrary man in the Kingdom: But aſſure your Selves I intend to take a greater care of my Own Preſervation, and in that of my Peoples, than any of You all that pretend to ſo much concern for the Security of my Perſon. And yet as careful as I am of my Own Preſervation: Yet I would much ſooner loſe this Life, of which you pretend to be ſo watchful Preſervers, than ever part with any of my Prerogative, or betray this Place, the Laws, or the Religion, or alter the true Succeſſion of the Crown, it being repugnant both to Conſcience and Law.

For that matter, reply'd the Earl, let us alone, we will make a Law for it.

But the *K.* told him, my Lord, if this is your Conſcience, it is far from being mine: For this cannot be done without overthrowing all Religion, and all Law.

Aud in fine, aſſure your ſelves, that as I love my Life ſo well, as to take all the care in the world to keep it with Honor, ſo I don't think it of ſo great Value neither, after Fifty, as to be preſerv'd with the forfeiture

of

of my Honor, Conſcience, and the Laws of the Land.

And much more to this purpoſe did his Majeſty ſay upon this occaſion; all ſo full of Reaſon, Equity and Juſtice, and with ſo much Reſolution and Courage, as gave the greateſt aſſurance and encouragement to all the Loyal Lords in the Houſe, and all honeſt Subjects that could be; but to the Factious, the greateſt Confuſion imaginable.

This was done yeſterday in the Houſe of Lords.

FINIS.

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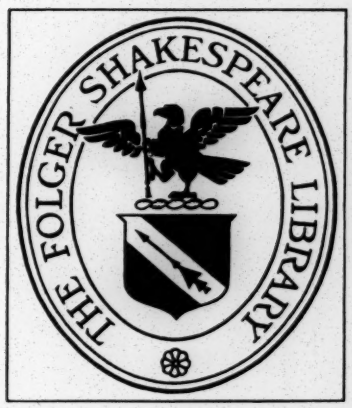
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